

change, and creating pathways to legal status for immigrants who are contributing members of our communities.

On behalf of the over 2300 Sisters of Mercy and the thousands of Mercy Associates across the United States, we urge you to demonstrate your leadership and ensure that the For the People Act is a priority in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

MARGARET CONLEY,
Director, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2021.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We write in support of the For the People Act (HR1/S1), the transformational democracy reform bill that would help return power to everyday Americans. We consider fair representation and accountability for elected leaders to be a moral issue of utmost importance. After the January 6th attack on the US Capitol, the urgency of democracy reforms to address our broken systems could not be more apparent. We are urging Congress to prioritize passage of this pro-voter, anti-corruption legislation.

On a practical level, only a healthy, well-functioning democracy has the capacity to attend to any of the pressing needs our faith calls us to address: the COVID pandemic, systemic racism, climate change, hunger, violence, poverty, healthcare and more. On a moral level, leaders must take swift action to protect the right to vote and to strengthen our democratic foundations from abuse and manipulation by the powerful and the wealthy at the expense of the historically marginalized and most vulnerable people in our nation.

The 2020 election cycle and the insurrection on January 6th have underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experienced unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethical abuses by special interests. The number of Americans misled into questioning the results of a safe and secure election demonstrates the fragility of our democracy and the urgency of taking concrete actions to shore-up public trust. One sweeping bill, the For the People Act (HR1/S1), addresses many of these problems.

Our organization Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice focuses on four major issues, all of which would be helped significantly by fixing our democracy: economic justice, immigration justice, environmental justice, and democracy. This historic legislation has significant momentum in Congress with priority designation in both chambers. On behalf of UUSJ we urge Congress to pass the For the People Act (HR1/S1) quickly in the 117th Session.

Sincerely,

PABLO DEJESUS,
Executive Director.

CHURCH & SOCIETY,
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
Washington, DC, February 22, 2021.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As General Secretary of The United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society, I write in support of the For the People Act (HR1), the transformational democracy reform bill that would help our political system be protected by strengthening the power of everyday Americans to determine our nation's leaders. Our ministry of justice and peace is connected to communities of faith across the United States and around the world who consider fair representation and accountability for elected leaders to be a moral issue of ut-

most importance. I am urging Congress to prioritize passage of this legislation which increases the overall transparency and effectiveness of our democratic systems.

The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church is the public policy agency of The United Methodist Church, a global denomination with more than eight million members in the United States.

We, as a denomination, understand that the strength of our political life together is determined by "the full and willing participation" of its citizens (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶164a "Political Responsibility").

The United Methodist Church affirms the right to vote for all adult citizens as a basic human right.

"We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections . . . The form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens." (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶164a "Basic Freedoms and Human Rights.")

The United Methodist Church calls for a vision of beloved community founded on economic and racial justice, including strengthening voting rights protections, in light of continued systemic racism that threatens to undermine provisions for fair and free elections for all citizens.

The For the People Act (HR1) makes sure that every citizen is able to exercise their civic duty free of voter suppression and murky campaign financing.

Too many Americans, particularly in communities of color, have been unjustly prevented from exercising their right to vote through extraordinary and deeply discriminatory voter suppression laws. Strong and dedicated community leaders are prevented from pursuing public office simply because of the overwhelming financial burden of running a campaign. On top of these deep systemic issues, the number of Americans in the 2020 election cycle misled into questioning the results of a general election with historic voter turn-out demonstrates the fragility of our democracy and the urgency of taking concrete actions to shore-up public trust. The For the People Act (HR1) addresses many of these problems.

The common-sense reforms in this legislation, developed through years of bi-partisan efforts and passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting and strengthening the right to vote, (2) reducing the influence of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures.

This historic legislation has significant momentum in Congress with priority designation in both chambers. As a United Methodist faith leader, I urge Congress to pass the For the People Act (HR1) quickly in the 117th Session.

Sincerely Yours,

REV. DR. SUSAN HENRY-CROWE,

General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF W. GENE KELLY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of W. Gene

Kelly. Gene passed away on February 17, 2021 after a lifetime of service to the Blair County community.

Gene lived in Martinsburg, Pennsylvania for most of his life. He graduated from Martinsburg High School and attended college at Pennsylvania State University. After college, he worked for the Altoona Area School District for 25 years as an elementary school teacher and principal.

Additionally, Gene served our great nation for six years in the U.S. Army Reserves, and he also founded the W. Gene Henry Mobile Home Parks in Martinsburg.

Throughout his life, Gene was dedicated to community service. He made generous contributions to support the Martinsburg Borough Municipal Building and Police Station, as well as the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company. He contributed to many community projects, including highway widenings, the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park, and a pair of buildings in the Fairview Cemetery.

Gene was an admirable, generous, and faithful member of our community. It is my privilege to honor Gene Kelly's life and legacy, and to recognize his many contributions to our nation and region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOT SPRINGS NATIVE, CLAY FARRAR

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hot Springs public servant and historian, Mr. Clay Farrar. He passed away on February 27, 2021, leaving behind a community which mourns the passing of a leader, a servant, a mentor, and a friend.

For nearly 50 years, Mr. Farrar worked on a variety of projects around the Hot Springs community. As a partner at Farrar and Williams PLLC, he specialized in trust and estate planning. Serving as Chairman of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce in 1988, Mr. Farrar became instrumental in the development and success of Hot Springs. He was considered an expert in local history, producing a series on the National Park Rotary Club, writing monthly columns of local history for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, and contributing to the Garland County Historical Society. In 1985, Mr. Farrar had a profound impact on the preservation of Hot Springs National Park's designation when efforts were made to return it to its original designation as the Hot Springs Reservation. Even after his retirement, Mr. Farrar continued to serve as chairperson of the committee tasked with the repurposing of the ACTI Complex, or the Army/Navy Hospital, which graces the Downtown Hot Springs skyline.

In addition to his life of service for his beloved city, Mr. Farrar was known to be an inspiration and a mentor to many in the community, teaching the power of devotion and hard work through each project he tackled. It is from men like Mr. Clay Farrar that we can discover the importance of learning from our own history to define our future. From him, we derive the definition of true servant leadership.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Clay Farrar. I thank him